



Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project in Kasarani District

What is the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project?

With funding from USAID and the James R. Jordan Foundation International, the Kenya Women and Children's Wellness Centre (KWCWC) is training health care providers and community members in Kasarani District in Nairobi to treat and prevent gender-based violence (GBV) including domestic violence, rape and date rape, and physical assault. Trainees include doctors, nurses, clinicians, and community leaders, and civil society organizations. Beneficiaries of this project include victims of gender-based violence and their families, vulnerable women and girls, and community leaders.



Photo: USAID/KWCWC

KWCWC paralegals go door-to-door in Jua-kali village to talk about gender-based violence with residents

Project Duration and Budget

May 2011 - May 2013

\$600,000

Who implements the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project?

James R. Jordan Foundation International
Kenya Women and Children's Wellness Centre
<http://www.jordanfoundationint.org/kenya-women-and-childrens-wellness-centre>

Where does the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project work?

Kasarani District on the outskirts of Nairobi.

What does the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project do?

The KWCWC works in Kasarani District to empower community members and leaders to recognize and prevent gender-based violence, treat victims, and educate health care practitioners and paralegals about prevention and treatment of gender-based violence. Project activities include:

Services to survivors of gender-based violence

- Integrated treatment, counseling, social services, legal assistance to help victims recover from the trauma of violence and develop positive coping mechanisms.
- Individual and group counseling for survivors and their families.

Community empowerment

- Community mobilization discussions on gender-based violence to sensitize participants that domestic violence, rape, and physical assault are crimes against women.
- Awareness building among health care workers
- Paralegal training to enable community members to counsel victims on social services and legal assistance.
- Police, security officers, and government clerks trained on how to handle survivors of gender-based violence and to make referrals to victims.

How is the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project making a difference?

- 340 primary and secondary school students have been informed about GBV prevention and treatment.
- 200 parents are aware of symptoms of emotional abuse and how to protect children against sexual abuse.
- 40 teachers in Kasarani District have been trained and sensitized on GBV.
- 54 health workers have been equipped with basic knowledge and skills on preservation of evidence, documentation and data collection for survivors of rape.
- 7 churches and crusade forums have been visited, reaching over 6,930 people with awareness raising on GBV.
- 1,000 girl and boy scouts participated in training activities on GBV.
- 9 youth have been trained as paralegals to raise awareness on GBV in their communities.

What key challenges does the Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project face?

Some community members are hesitant to report incidences of gender-based violence to police due to lack of trust in law enforcement personnel. Some community leaders and security personnel are reluctant to allow their communities to be sensitized on GBV. Leaders of some faith-based organizations do not wish to participate in GBV trainings. Police who have received training on GBV are often transferred from one station to another, making implementation of responses to GBV difficult to sustain at particular posts.

The Community Outreach Gender-Based Violence Project in action

Keeping step with the St. Francis Hospital Marching Band, more than 100 community members including community health workers, pastors, and university students walked from Njatha-ini village to a local church in Marurui village in Kasarani District on December 9, 2011 to commemorate the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, observed from November 25 – December 10.

As they walked, they knocked on doors in the Njatha-ini, Marurui, and Jua kali slums to talk to neighbors about the importance of seeking medical care within 72 hours after rape occurs.

As the walkers reached public areas, crowds gathered to hear speeches on preventing gender-based violence from area Chiefs, Peace Committee representatives, and local Children's Committee representatives. The KWCWC distributed an information pack on gender-based violence to audience members.

During the 16 Days of Activism, KWCWC reached more than 400 school children in the Marurui primary school with training in GBV prevention. Students learned to recognize gender-based violence and were encouraged to disclose cases of abuse to trusted persons.

For more information:

<http://www.jordanfoundationint.org/kenya-women-and-childrens-wellness-centre>

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Photo: USAID/KWCWC



Community walkers join together against gender-based violence in Njatha-ini village

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